CLAIMS

1.   Apparatus comprising:

a plurality of circuit boards, each having electronic circuitry including a non-volatile memory containing product data that identifies the respective circuit board and means for reading the product data in said non-volatile memory; and

a backplane for mounting and interconnecting said circuit boards.

2.   Apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said non-volatile memory comprises a read-only memory.

3.   Apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said non-volatile memory comprises an electrically-erasable programmable read-only memory.

4.   Apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said non-volatile memory comprises a serial EEPROM.

5.   Apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said each of said circuit boards further comprises means for providing external access to the product data in said non-volatile memory through said backplane.

6.   Apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said product data includes one or more of a board part number, a board serial number, a board revision level, a cabinet serial number and text comments.

7.   A computer storage system comprising:

an array of storage devices;

a system cache memory; and

a plurality of controller boards for controlling data transfer to and between said array of storage devices, said system cache memory and a host computer, each of said controller boards having electronic circuitry including a non-volatile memory containing product data

that identifies the respective controller board and means for reading the product data in said non-volatile memory.

8.   A computer storage system as defined in claim 7 wherein said non-volatile memory comprises a read-only memory.

9.   A computer storage system as defined in claim 7 wherein said non-volatile memory comprises a serial EEPROM.

10.   A computer storage system as defined in claim 7 further comprising a backplane for mounting and interconnecting said controller boards, wherein each of said controller boards further comprises means for providing external access to the product data in said non-volatile memory through said backplane.

11.   A computer storage system as defined in claim 7 wherein said product data includes one or more of a board part number, a board serial number, a board revision level, a cabinet serial number and text comments.

12.   A method for identifying a circuit board, comprising the steps of:
        placing a non-volatile memory device on the circuit board;
        storing product data that identifies the circuit board in the non-volatile memory device;
and
        reading the product data in said non-volatile memory device.

13.   A method as defined in claim 12 wherein the step of storing product data comprises storing one or more of a board part number, a board serial number, a board revision level, a cabinet serial number and text comments.

14.   A method as defined in claim 12 wherein the non-volatile memory device comprises a serial EEPROM.